

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

**WESSELS**

Group Art Unit: unknown

Application No.: unknown

Examiner: unknown

Filed: December 26, 2001

FOR: LASER-WRITABLE POLYMER COMPOSITION

\* \* \* \* \*

December 26, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter the following amendment in the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At the top of the first page, just under the title, please insert:

Cross-reference to related applications

--This is a Continuation of International Application No. PCT/NL00/00449 filed June 28, 2000, which designated the U.S. and was published in the English language.

#30207943

The contents of this PCT application are incorporated in their entirety by reference.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows.

4. (Amended) Polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer composition is essentially halogen-free.
5. (Amended) Polymer composition according to claim 1, comprising between 2 and 5 wt. % antimony trioxide with an average particle size of at least 1.5 micrometers.
7. (Amended) Polymer composition according to claim 1, containing between 0.5 and 3 wt. % antimony trioxide and between 0.1 and 3 wt. % nacreous pigment.
8. (Amended) Polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the nacreous pigment and the antimony trioxide lies between 1:5.5 and 1:50.
9. (Amended) Polymer composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer composition is essentially halogen-free and contains a halogen-free flame retardant.
11. (Amended) Article, wholly or partly made of the polymer composition according to claim 1.
14. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein the polymer composition contains between 0.5 and 5 wt. % of antimony trioxide.
15. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein the polymer composition is essentially halogen-free.

16. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein the polymer composition contains between 2 and 5 wt. % antimony trioxide with an average particle size of at least 1.5 micrometers.

17. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein the polymer composition is essentially halogen-free and contains a halogen-free flame retardant.

19. (Amended) Process for applying a dark laser marking onto a light background, which comprises irradiating an article consisting, at least at the place where the marking is applied, of a polymer composition according to claim 1, with a laser light in the pattern of the marking.

20. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein the article is irradiated with laser light with a wavelength of 1064 nm.

21. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein the article is irradiated with laser light from a diode-pumped laser.

22. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein the article is radiated with laser light from an Nd:YAG laser.

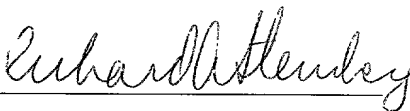
**REMARKS**

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-22 will be pending, of which claims 1, 6 and 12 are independent. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to employ a more conventional U.S. claim format. In addition, the specification has been amended to include a cross reference to the PCT parent application. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced.

It is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is courteously solicited. If any questions remain, however, the Examiner is encouraged to call undersigned to expedite the prosecution of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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## APPENDIX

### I. VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

#### IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A cross-reference to the PCT parent application has been added.

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 14-17 and 19-22 have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) Polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1-3, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the polymer composition is essentially [halogen free] halogen-free.

5. (Amended) Polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1-4] claim 1, comprising between 2 and 5 wt. % antimony trioxide with an average particle size of at least 1.5 [micrometer] micrometers.

7. (Amended) Polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1-6, characterised in that it contains] claim 1, containing between 0.5 and 3 wt. % antimony trioxide and between 0.1 and 3 wt. % nacreous pigment.

8. (Amended) Polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1-7, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the nacreous pigment and the antimony trioxide lies between 1:5.5 and 1:50.

9. (Amended) Polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1-8, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the polymer composition is essentially [halogen free] halogen-free and contains a halogen-free flame retardant.

11. (Amended) Article, wholly or partly made of the polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1-10] claim 1.

14. (Amended) Process according to [any one of claims 12-13] claim 12, wherein the polymer composition contains between 0.5 and 5 wt. % of antimony trioxide.

15. (Amended) Process according to [any one of claims 12-14] claim 12, wherein the polymer composition is essentially [halogen free] halogen-free.

16. (Amended) Process according to [any one of claims 12-15] claim 12, wherein the polymer composition contains between 2 and 5 wt. % antimony trioxide with an average particle size of at least 1.5 micrometers [micrometer].

17. (Amended) Process according to [any one of claims 12-16] claim 12, wherein the polymer composition is essentially [halogen free] halogen-free and contains a halogen-free flame retardant.

19. (Amended) Process for applying a dark laser marking onto a light background, which comprises irradiating [in which] an article consisting, at least at the place where the marking is applied, of a polymer composition according to [any one of claims 1-10 is irradiated] claim 1 with a laser light in the pattern of the marking.

20. (Amended) Process according to [any one of claims 12-19, characterized in that] claim 12, wherein the article is irradiated with laser light with a wavelength of 1064 nm.

21. (Amended) Process according to [any one of claims 12-20, characterized in that] claim 12, wherein the article is irradiated with laser light from a diode-pumped laser.

22. (Amended) Process according to [any one of claims 12-21, characterized in that] claim 12, wherein the article is radiated with laser light from an Nd:YAG laser.